

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claims 1-43. (Cancelled).

44. (Currently amended) An apparatus for producing hollow strands by drawing at least one settable liquid in a drawing direction, comprising:
a nozzle having an outer shell and a needle, said nozzle extending in the drawing direction; and
at least one displacement body projecting out of the nozzle in the drawing direction, wherein said at least one displacement body comprises a hollow body that is open with respect to the at least one settable liquid, said hollow body being arranged in said nozzle between said outer shell and said needle, said hollow body projecting out of said nozzle in the drawing direction, wherein said at least one displacement body has a cross sectional dimension, and wherein said at least one displacement body projects out of said nozzle in the drawing direction by at least half said cross sectional dimension.

45. (Cancelled).

46. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said at least one displacement body comprises a body boundary in contact with the at least one settable liquid, said body boundary ending in a point or sharp edge and said body boundary being arranged outside said nozzle.

47. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said outer shell comprises a shell boundary that is in contact with the hollow strand, said shell boundary comprising break-off edge in the drawing direction, wherein detaching of the hollow strand from said nozzle takes place substantially at said break-off edge.

48. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein said shell boundary comprises a material that is poorly wetted by the at least one settable liquid.

49. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, further comprising connecting elements for connecting said at least one displacement body to said nozzle.

50. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said at least one displacement body is held by a holder such that it can slide in a horizontal and/or a vertical direction with respect to said nozzle.

51. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said outer shell is cylindrical.

52. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said at least one displacement body is cylindrical.

53. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said at least one displacement body is arranged coaxially with respect to said nozzle.

54. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said at least one displacement body and said nozzle define a gap therebetween, said gap being sufficient to permit a predeterminable throughput at a given viscosity of the at least one settable liquid.

55. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said at least one displacement body comprises dimensions that are not constant in a plane that is perpendicular to a longitudinal axes of said at least one displacement body.

56-60. (Cancelled).

61. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, further comprising a device for applying a liquid to the hollow strand.

62. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, wherein said at least one displacement body comprises a material selected from the group consisting of a high-melting metal, a precious metal, a refractory metal, a ceramic material, an alloy of one or more of the foregoing, and any combinations thereof.

63. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, further comprising a device for generating a pressure difference between an interior and an exterior of the hollow strand.

64-79. (Cancelled).

80. (New) An apparatus for producing hollow strands by drawing at least one settable liquid in a drawing direction, comprising:

a nozzle defined by an outer shell and a needle, said nozzle extending in the drawing direction; and

at least one displacement body projecting out of the nozzle in the drawing direction, wherein said at least one displacement body comprises a hollow body that is open with respect to the at least one settable liquid, said hollow body being arranged in said nozzle between said outer shell and said needle so that the at least one settable liquid can penetrate into a space between said outer shell and said hollow body and a space between said hollow body and said needle.